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Attorney Docket: 061063-0306592

Chent Reference: OSP-15151

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Confirmation No.: Unassigned

HASEGAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2823

Appln. No. 10/696,702

Examiner: Estrada, Michelle

Filed: October 30, 2003

Title: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING METHOD AND SEMICONDUCTOR

MANUFACTURING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached is a PTO-1449.

The references were cited in the corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-108563 on which the parent application, 10/254,601, and grandparent application, 09/793,124, relies for priority under 35 U.S.C. §120. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each reference and return the PTO-1449 in accordance with MPEP §609 by initialing each reference and signing and dating the PTO-1449. Also enclosed is a copy of the Japanese Office Action dated October 28, 2003, along with an English translation. The Japanese Office Action is not more than three months prior to filing of the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). The undersigned certifies that the references were first cited in the Japanese Office Action not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

This IDS is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, <u>prompt</u> notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicants to comply fully.

This IDS is being submitted prior to the first Official Action on the merits, accordingly, no fee is due.

HASEGAWA et al. -- 10/696,702 Client/Matter: 061063-0306592

Consideration of the enclosed references and prompt and favorable examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

John P. Darling

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Date: November 20, 2003

P.O. Box 10500 McLean, VA 22102 (703) 905-2000

Enclosures:

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PTO-1449

Cited References

Japanese Office and English translation

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